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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography contains resources considered helpful for Ohio teachers looking for new strategies or theories about teaching writing. Presented first is an annotated listing of 18 books and articles. Each entry includes some or all of the following: title, author, publication data, brief summary or explanation, and indication of whether the item is available for loan from the Ohio Literacy Resource Center library. The following are among the topics discussed in the items listed: teaching reading and writing to middle and junior high school students; teaching creative and expository writing to children and adults; mastering the writing process; using mini-lessons to help students become effective writers; setting up a writing exchange; understanding the theory and practice of writing; teaching reading and writing to resistant students; treating students as partners to help them control their own learning and master writing; mastering the language, process, and structure of written discourse; developing writing skills through life stories; approaching reading and writing instruction in unorthodox ways; and teaching the basics of writing, including handwriting, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, sentence and paragraph construction, and essay writing. Concluding the document is an annotated list of four websites that concern writing. (MN)

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Ohio Literacy Resource Center

Enhancing adult literacy in the State of Ohio

ED 415 429

Program Resources

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WRITING RESOURCES

This bibliography contains books, articles, and internet addresses that would be helpful for teachers looking for new strategies or theories about the teaching of writing. Along with each bibliographic entry is a very brief summary or explanation of the work. Many of these works were not geared specifically for adult education teachers of writing; however, most of the points in them are easily transferred to the adult education classroom. Bibliographic entries with an asterisk next to the author's name are available for loan from the OLRC library. Those works not having an asterisk should be easily available at most libraries. This is certainly not an exhaustive list, but rather, a good beginning. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact Bryan Bardine at the OLRC at 1-800-765-2897, ext. 19.

Atwell, Nancie. (1987). In the middle: Writing, reading, and learning with adolescents. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

An outstanding book that looks at a teacher's development as an educator as well as a learner among her students. It shows us the importance of learning as much from our students as they learn from us. The book is loaded with "the details of conducting conferences in reading and writing, mini-lessons, working with various genres, the uses of time, grading and proofreading"(Foreword). Essentially, the book focuses on the teaching of middle and junior high school teachers, but as with many of the books on this list, the ideas and techniques are easily transferred to the adult education classroom.

Calkins, Lucy McCormick. (1986). The art of teaching writing. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Calkins is a well-respected teacher, researcher, and author whose main focus in this book is developing ways to help children become better writers. Although geared toward teachers of children, the book offers many important points about different aspects of teaching writing. For instance, she discusses the importance of writing conferences and some different types of conferences; she also talks about mini-lessons, and editing. She examines several different modes of writing including learning logs, poetry, teaching fiction, writing across the curriculum, and enabling students to be the teachers. Obviously, everything in this book is not applicable to adult education, but much of it can be transferred to the adult classroom.

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Elbow, Peter. (1981). Writing with power: Techniques for mastering the writing process. New York: Oxford University Press.

Elbow, the well-known teacher and author, attempts to help the writer "gain power over words and readers"(note to the reader). The book can be used as a handbook for teachers who want to help their writers write more persuasively or "make contact with their readers"(note to the reader). Another excellent book by Peter Elbow—Writing without teachers.

Fiderer, Adele. (1997). 25 Mini-lessons for teaching writing: Quick lessons that help students become effective writers. New York: Scholastic Professional Books.

Although many of the lessons seem to be designed for kids, they are easily adaptable to the adult education classroom. This book gives several excellent lessons and writing prompts that will help in student development.

Freedman, Sarah Warshauer. (1994). What's involved?: Setting up a writing exchange. Berkeley, CA: Center for the Study of Writing, University of California.

In this article, Freedman looks at how she learned about the idea of a writing exchange and explains a study using ten pairs of teachers who conducted their own writing exchanges.

Grabe, W. & Kaplan, R.B. (1996). Theory and practice of writing. London: AddisonWesley Longman Limited.

A collection of chapters dealing with different ways to approach the teaching of writing. Primarily written for secondary and post-secondary teachers, the ideas and themes presented in the book are easily transferable to the adult classroom. It also contains some information on writing theory and various purposes for writing.

Graves, Donald. (1994). A fresh look at writing. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

In this book, Graves examines a variety of topics and issues that he has written about in the past. He discusses ways to use portfolios, record keeping, methods for teaching conventions, and spelling in a multitude of genre—including fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Also, he tries to emphasize the importance of maintaining writing in your life. Some other books about writing by Donald Graves:

Explore poetry
Build a literate classroom
Writing: Teachers and children at work
A researcher learns to write
The reading/writing teacher's companion series

Krogness, Mary Mercer. (1995). Just teach me Mrs. K.: Talking, reading and writing with resistant adolescent learners. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

This book, written by an elementary and middle school teacher from Shaker Heights, OH, examines ways to teach reading and writing to resistant students. Although originally written for teachers of adolescents, much of the content of this excellent text transfers to adult learners as well. Very readable and interesting.

Macrorie, Ken. (1988). The I-Search paper: Revised edition of searching writing. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

An innovative book that treats students as partners in learning by helping them to gain control of their own learning. Has been termed a *context* book "that shows students what authority is in matters of learning and invites them to join the author and teacher in the educational movement called "Writing to Learn"(p.1).

*Merson, Martha (Coordinator). (1996). Connections: A journal of adult literacy—Catching ourselves in the act: Writing about teaching writing. 6, (1).

This journal is dedicated to the teaching of essay writing—particularly for the GED. The articles are primarily written by adult educators, for adult educators, and a variety of teaching techniques and approaches are discussed throughout the journal. This volume contains nine separate articles.

Murray, Donald. (1984). Write to learn. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Murray is one of the foremost teachers and researchers about the teaching of writing, and this is one of his best books. He details his process in writing a particular article about his grandmother. He takes the reader through every step in this process, and he gives examples, explanations, and sound advice throughout. Also, he uses other authors' opinions and quotes throughout the book to help explain his process. Other books or collections by Murray include:

Learning by teaching
Shoptalk: Learning to write with writers
Expecting the unexpected: Teaching myself and others to read and write

Nystrand, Martin. (1982). What writers know: The language, process and structure of written discourse. New York: Academic Press, a subsidiary of Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich.

A collection of chapters examining various aspects of research done about writing. The book includes topics such as error analysis, revision, learning to write in school settings, and the writing process.

Oster, Judith. (1987). From reading to writing: A rhetoric and reader. Boston: Little, Brown and Company.

This is a college composition text that is full of a number of excellent readings. Many could be used as the basis for group discussion or as a springboard for writing and response exercises.

*Phifer, Nan M. (1995). Writing your life: Developing skills through life story writing. New York: Glencoe Publishers.

A good book for adults who may be hesitant to write or for those students who have a difficult time starting writing. Phifer gives dozens of prompts throughout the book, keeping the focus on the writer. She tries to emphasize that the best way to start writing is to write about one-self—the thing that we all know so much about.

Romano, Tom. (1995). Writing with passion: Life stories, multiple genres. Portsmouth, NH Heinemann.

An excellent book that examines a teacher's development as a writer, reader, educator, and learner. Romano gives the reader several interesting ways to approach reading and writing instruction—some of them very unorthodox! A book that no teacher of writing—at any age, should miss. Another excellent book by Romano is Clearing the way: Working with teenage writers.

Shaughnessy, Mina P. (1977). Errors and expectations: A guide for the teacher of basic writing. New York: Oxford University Press.

A well-known and excellent book that gives teachers some important information about how basic writers learn such things as handwriting, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, sentence, paragraph, and essay development. The book is full of examples as well.

Stillman, Peter R. (1989). Families writing. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

A great book for those interested in getting families interested in writing. Stillman emphasizes the importance of writing for everyone, and he tries to relay his point of view by showing the connections that writing can draw with the past, present, and future. Another excellent book by Peter Stillman is Writing your way.

*Strunk, Sandra J. (Ed.). (1992-93). Emerging voices: An adult education anthology. Lancaster, PA: The Adult Enrichment Center of Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13.

This book is a collection of short stories, essays, poetry, personal narratives, and letters written by adult education students from Pennsylvania.

Here is a list of some interesting web sites that concern writing:

www.refdesk.com—check under the section called homework help; there are several good writing resources.

www-gse.berkeley.edu/Research/NWP/nwp.html—This is the web site for the National Writing Project. It describes the purpose and function of the National Writing Project. An excellent section called "Teacher Research On-Line" was very helpful for me as I browsed the site. Another section that was a great deal of help was entitled "Other WWW sites for Teachers and Learners."

www.sixthfloor.com/TIPL.html—This site is part of the Houghton-Mifflin Company's web site. It contains an interesting section about multimedia resources for writing teachers.

webnz.com/wnp/onlinec/introcer/alpha/finding.htm—This site is part of "The On-line Journal of Teaching Adults," a place for students to publish completed work.

THE OHIO LITERACY RESOURCE CENTER IS LOCATED AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY,
414 WHITE HALL, P.O. BOX 5190, KENT, OH 44242-0001
1-800-765-2897 OR 330-672-2007
E-MAIL ADDRESS: olrc@literacy.kent.edu WEB SITE: literacy.kent.edu